



Bovine Tuberculosis in California

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from California.

Bovine TB was confirmed in a Tulare County dairy herd in May 2002. The herd was quarantined by the CDFA, tested for TB three times, and all test-positive cattle were destroyed. All cattle sold from or associated with the herd over the last five years have been traced and tested. In November, the whole herd was sent to slaughter and the property thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The premises were released from quarantine after approval of the State TB epidemiologist.

A TB-positive cow was found at a California slaughterhouse in September 2002. The investigation into the source of this cow is ongoing, but indicates a dispersed beef herd from Tulare County.

In October 2002, a single reactor was identified in a Tulare County dairy herd tested while investigating the first infected dairy. The dairy was quarantined. While preliminary laboratory results are positive for TB, final culture results from a USDA laboratory are pending. The herd was classified as an infected herd in December 2002.

Update

The owner of the second infected herd has requested depopulation, and funding is being sought.

A TB-positive cow was found at a California slaughterhouse in late December 2002. The herd of origin was tested and, although culture results are incomplete, this Kings County dairy herd has been classified as California's third TB infected herd.

To date, 167,138 cattle in 111 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and nearly 8,000 cattle have been slaughtered during this investigation.

| Cumulative Since May 13, 2002 | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Herds tested | 111 |
| Number of animals tested | 167,138 |
| Number of herds quarantined | 3 |
| Number of cattle destroyed | 7,922 |
| Average number of field personnel | 12 |

As of February 2003, we recommended a TB test on exhibition dairy cattle more than six months of age from Tulare, Kings and Fresno Counties.

Since June 2002, all dairy breeding animals more than six months of age leaving California need a negative TB test within 30 days of movement. This requirement does not apply to beef cattle at this time.

Impact on California's TB-Free Status

The USDA assigns various status levels to a state under the bovine TB eradication program: Accredited Free, Modified Accredited Advanced, Modified Accredited, Accreditation Preparatory or Non-Accredited.

The USDA will downgrade California's status from TB-Free to Modified Accredited Advanced because a second TB-affected herd was identified within 48 months of the first herd. *The State status will change when the regulation is published in the Federal Register.*

This new status will require all California breeding cattle to have official identification and a negative TB test within 60 days of interstate movement OR originate from a TB Accredited-Free herd (mandatory annual TB testing) OR move directly to slaughter.

If more than three infected herds are found for each of the most recent two years, California may be downgraded to Modified Accredited. In this situation, breeding cattle would need a negative whole herd TB test in addition to individual TB tests and official identification to move out of California.

The USDA is reviewing its regulations used to determine a state's TB status, and will publish a new regulation this year.

Plans

California is reviewing its TB control and surveillance options with the cattle industry. Current plans being discussed include:

- Test all dairy herds in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties.
- Require a TB test before importing dairy cattle into California.
- Restrict Mexican cattle to "pre-approved" pastures.
- Develop agreements with neighboring states to ease annual TB testing requirements on "commuter cattle".

| CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices | |
|--|--------------|
| Sacramento (HQ) | 916-654-1447 |
| Modesto | 209-491-9350 |
| Ontario | 909-947-4462 |
| Redding | 530-225-2140 |
| Tulare | 559-685-3500 |
| Tulare TB Task Force | 559-687-1158 |
| CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch Offices | |
| Stockton | 209-466-7186 |
| Oakland | 510-622-4810 |
| Fresno | 559-445-5506 |
| Ontario | 909-923-9929 |
| USDA/APHIS/VS | |
| 916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690 | |